



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE March 15, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

On March 13, National Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge announced the creation of the Homeland Security Advisory System, a five-level system intended to provide a comprehensive and effective means of disseminating terrorism risks and threats to federal, state, and local authorities, and the public. The five color-coded stages of alert and how government agencies should respond are:

Green is a low risk of terrorist attack.

Blue is a general risk, and agencies are asked to review and update emergency response procedures.

Yellow is an "elevated condition," meaning there is a significant risk of attack. Increased surveillance of critical locations and implementing some emergency response plans are called for.

Orange signifies a high risk of attack, meaning the government should coordinate necessary security efforts with armed forces or law enforcement agencies and take additional precautions at public events.

Red means a "severe risk" of attack and may require the pre-positioning of specially trained teams, closing public and government facilities, and monitoring transportation systems.

According to news reports, Ridge said America is currently at yellow alert because the al-Qaida terrorist network is trying to re-form after defeats in Afghanistan and has trained thousands of terrorists, some of whom have likely slipped into the United States. Hundreds of local police agencies were being notified today of the yellow alert as well as what the color-coded system entails. The alert system is in force immediately for federal agencies, and Ridge is urging state and local governments to adopt it too. The system will be subject to a 45-day comment period, after which it could be revised.

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force has formed a working group on the threat system in order to review the system to provide comment and will be working to develop a template for local government. Local governments are encouraged to review the system themselves as well. Please see attachments at the end of the Update for further information concerning the Homeland Security Advisory System.

- . Illinois Homeland Security Director Matt Bettenhausen was the keynote speaker at the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois's general membership meeting on March 7. Director Bettenhausen spoke concerning homeland security efforts here and the issues facing the State.
- . The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) affiliates with local emergency managers through their professional association, the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA). The annual IESMA conference will be held April 18-20 at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, with an emphasis on training and education. The course will begin with IEMA offering several courses, including: ICS/EOC; Developing Volunteer Resources; a New Coordinators' Workshop; Basic Concepts of Terrorism; and Damage Assessment. The keynote speaker on Friday, April 19, will be Amy Smithson, a Senior Associate at the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., who directs the Chemical & Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Project.
- . A statewide meeting of the Illinois Association of Air & Critical Care Transport (IAACCT) was held this week in Litchfield. The Association represents all major aeromedical transport service responders from around the State of Illinois and East-Central Missouri. A representative from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics discussed Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs), aircraft and facility security, and emergency response related issues. Most TFRs in the state have been lifted, with the exception of the Ammunition Plant in Newport, Indiana, (5000 feet above ground level (AGL) and 5 miles - encroaches Illinois) and the Chicago downtown-rectangular coverage area (5 nautical miles (nm) x 2 nm and 3000 feet AGL). General advisories are in effect for open air assemblies (more than 10,000 people - 3000 feet AGL and 3 miles), and key Infrastructure (bridges, dams, power plants, etc. - no loitering or circling).
- . The Public Information Committee of the Terrorism Task Force is awaiting a signed contract with Citigate to develop public service announcements (PSAs) to inform the public on homeland security issues and refer citizens and responders to the official Homeland Security web site.
- . The State Fire Marshal's Office has completed its review of the new Hazmat Operations Course and Terrorism Course, which have been officially approved for certification and are now available.
- . On March 9, Mr. Joseph Daniel Konopka was arrested by University of Illinois at Chicago police officers on an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution warrant which was issued in Wisconsin in June 2001. FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Chicago HAZMAT, and Chicago Police Department investigators found seven boxes marked as containing sodium

cyanide, potassium cyanide, mercuric sulfate, and other chemicals in an underground location. This is an ongoing investigation.

. The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) RACER (Radiological Assessment and Coordinated Emergency Response) team conducted a terrorism exercise with the Peoria Fire and Police Departments and area hospitals. The exercise included the implementation of a unified command structure, as well as other state/local government response team integration procedures.

. IDNS continues to investigate security considerations associated with reopening portions of nuclear power station cooling lakes to fishing and recreational boaters. Discussions continue with Exelon and the Department of Natural Resources.

. The Department of Nuclear Safety is coordinating with Exelon on compliance with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) recent rulings on enhanced security for power stations in Illinois. The new NRC rules adopted this month codify the voluntary security upgrades directed by the Commission after the September 11th attacks.

. Final training and preparations are being completed for the full-scale radiological emergency preparedness exercise at the LaSalle Station on March 20. The activities involving state and local response organizations will be evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It will be the 13th biennial evaluated exercise conducted for the LaSalle facility.

. The American Red Cross (ARC) has developed a new document designed to assist ARC staff respond to the needs of disabled persons. The document, "Assisting People with Disabilities", provides information for ARC Disaster Services staff to provide services in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and provides specific guidance in helping people with various impairments (emotional/mental, hearing, mobility, neurological, respiratory, speech, and visual). A section on "Sign Language for Emergency Situations" which gives common sign language terms that may be needed following disaster situations is also included in the publication.

. The ARC continues to work with the Department of Natural Resources on the development of a database of DNR facilities that could be used as shelters or other facilities to serve disaster victims.

. Dr. Richard Hull, State Veterinarian, attended an Emergency Management Concepts and Issues for Animal Health Manager's Course, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Justice Department. The course provided top federal and state animal health managers an opportunity to share a common learning experience focused on refreshing foreign animal disease knowledge and improving the effectiveness of emergency preparation,

prevention, response, and recovery activities. The course also provided a foreign animal disease review, sampling and tissue submission of suspect cases, an introduction to the Incidence Command System (ICS) presented by USDA Forestry Service personnel, an emergency response to a biological incident including weapons of mass destruction and crime scene management, and crisis communications in a disease or other emergency. Fifty state veterinarians, federal area veterinarians in charge (AVICs), and USDA personnel were in attendance.

Homeland Security Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System will provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist attacks to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people.

As part of a series of initiatives to improve coordination and communication among all levels of government and the American public in the fight against terrorism, President Bush signed Homeland Security Presidential Directive 3, creating the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). The advisory system will be the foundation for building a comprehensive and effective communications structure for the dissemination of information regarding the risk of terrorist attacks to all levels of government and the American people.

The Attorney General will be responsible for developing, implementing and managing the system. In conjunction with the development of this new system, the Attorney General will open a 45-day comment period in order to seek the views of officials at all levels of government, law enforcement and the American public. Ninety days after the conclusion of the comment period, the Attorney General – in coordination with the Director of the Office of Homeland Security -- will present a final Homeland Security Advisory System to the President for approval. The Homeland Security Advisory System will provide the following:

National framework for Federal, State, and local governments, private industry and the public. There are many federal alert systems in our country – each tailored and unique to different sectors of our society: transportation, defense, agriculture, and weather, for example. These alert systems fill vital and specific requirements for a variety of situations in both the commercial and government sectors. The Homeland Security Advisory System will provide a national framework for these systems, allowing government officials and citizens to communicate the nature and degree of terrorist threats. This advisory system characterizes appropriate levels of vigilance, preparedness and readiness in a series of graduated Threat Conditions. The Protective Measures that correspond to each Threat Condition will help the government and citizens decide what action they take to help counter and respond to terrorist activity. Based on the threat level, Federal agencies will implement appropriate Protective Measures. States and localities will be encouraged to adopt compatible systems.

Factors for assignment of Threat Conditions. The Homeland Security Advisory System will provide a framework for the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Homeland Security, to assign Threat Conditions, which can apply nationally, regionally, by sector or to a potential target. Cabinet Secretaries and other members of the Homeland Security Council will be consulted as appropriate. A variety of factors may be used to assess the threat. Among these:

- *Is the threat credible?*
- *Is the threat corroborated?*
- *Is the threat specific and/or imminent?*
- *How grave is the threat?*

Unified system for public announcements. Public announcements of threat advisories and alerts help deter terrorist activity, notify law enforcement and State and local government officials of threats, inform the public about government preparations, and provide them with the information necessary to respond to the threat. State and local officials will be informed in advance of national threat advisories when possible. The Attorney General will develop a system for conveying relevant information to Federal, State, and local officials, and the private sector expeditiously. Heightened Threat Conditions can be declared for the

entire nation, or for a specific geographic area, functional or industrial sector. Changes in assigned Threat Conditions will be made when necessary.

A tool to combat terrorism. Threat Conditions characterize the risk of terrorist attack. Protective Measures are the steps that will be taken by government and the private sector to reduce vulnerabilities. The HSAS establishes five Threat Conditions with associated suggested Protective Measures:

Low Condition

Green

Low risk of terrorist attacks. The following Protective Measures may be applied:

- Refining and exercising preplanned Protective Measures;
- Ensuring personnel receive training on HSAS, departmental, or agency-specific Protective Measures; and
- Regularly assessing facilities for vulnerabilities and taking measures to reduce them.

Guarded Condition

Blue

General risk of terrorist attack. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied:

- Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations;
- Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and
- Providing the public with necessary information.

Elevated Condition

Yellow

Significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied:

- Increasing surveillance of critical locations;
- Coordinating emergency plans with nearby jurisdictions;
- Assessing further refinement of Protective Measures within the context of the current threat information; and
- Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.

High Condition

Orange

High risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied:

- Coordinating necessary security efforts with armed forces or law enforcement agencies;
- Taking additional precaution at public events;
- Preparing to work at an alternate site or with a dispersed workforce; and
- Restricting access to essential personnel only.

Severe Condition

Red

Severe risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the previously outlined Protective Measures, the following may be applied:

- Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning specially trained teams;
- Monitoring, redirecting or constraining transportation systems;
- Closing public and government facilities; and
- Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs.

Written comments may be sent to: Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security

Advisory System, Room 7222, 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20535.

Comments may also be submitted electronically to: HSAScomments@fbi.gov



Homeland Security Advisory System

SEVERE

Severe Risk of Terrorist Attacks

HIGH

High Risk of Terrorist Attacks

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

GUARDED

General Risk of Terrorist Attacks

LOW

Low Risk of Terrorist Attacks



Homeland Security Advisory System

SEVERE

Severe Risk of Terrorist Attacks

HIGH

High Risk of Terrorist Attacks

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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General Risk of Terrorist Attacks

LOW

Low Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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